

# Hire Education

## Co-op Students Capture Prestigious North American Award

A group of eight students from the John Molson School of Business (JMSB) Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management (KWPM) program at Concordia has won first place at the Annual Redefining Investment Strategy Education (R.I.S.E.) competition held recently at the University of Dayton, Ohio. The KWPM portfolio placed first in the "Undergraduate Equity – Value Investing" category with a fiscal year 2003 risk adjusted return of 13.73%. There were over 30 US and Canadian business schools participating in the competition with seven in the "value" class.

Key speakers at the symposium included senior strategists, economists, and chairs from some of the largest global financial institutions. A special presentation was given by the President and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Michael H. Moskow. The class of 2004 fund managers also made a formal presentation on their management of the



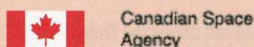
Back Row [left to right]: **Michael Marcotte\***, **Matthew Devlin\***, **Michael Onwood\*\***, **Donald Walcot\*\***, **Myles Hiscock\***. Middle Row [left to right]: **Isabel Chan\***, **Vishal Patel\***, **Jason Sutton**. Front Row [left to right]: **Raluca Petrescu\***, **Lior Srulovicz**, **Frank Belvedere\*\***, **Kenneth Woods**, **Christine Lengvari\***, **Professor Abraham Brodt** [KWPM Director]. Missing from picture: **Tulio Cedraschi\*\***, **Judith Kavanagh\*\***, **Diane Marleau\*\*** (\* =Senior Co-op Finance student, \*\*=KWPM Client Committee Member)

KWPM portfolio to, and received critical feedback from, a private panel of judges from Morgan Stanley Investment Management, Inc., Alliance Bernstein and Capital Guardian Trust Company.

The Kenneth Woods Portfolio Management Program was founded by MBA alumnus Kenneth Woods in 1999 with the objective to train a select group of undergraduate students in investment management. The portfolio is currently valued at over \$1,000,000 in assets.

## It is Rocket Science

The Canadian Space Agency (CSA) in Longueuil, Quebec likes Concordia University's co-op students. "We have employed many Concordia students over the past several years," explains Stephen Schaller, CSA Satellite Operations Division Mission Planner. "Our unit performs time-critical duties necessary in the planning of images taken by the RADARSAT-1 remote sensing satellite. The students help in everything from the planning and cataloguing of images taken over all the major cities of the world, to providing client services."



Although these students are leaning on a prototype of the Canadarm, they also support the RADARSAT-1 project at CSA. Pictured from left to right: **Nicolas Marchand**, Mechanical Engineering third work term; **Catherine (Hoi-Ping) Kan**, Human Resources, second work term; **Jessica Wong**, Accountancy, third work term; **Nicholas Rudzicz**, Computer Engineering, third work term; and **Tina Lee**, DMIS, fourth work term.

## There's chemistry between this employer and Co-op

Thirteen years ago Chris Wilds had some decisions to make. He had been accepted to McGill, but was attracted to Concordia because of its smaller class sizes, and the chance to earn money and gain work experience in its co-operative education program. There are no regrets for one of Concordia's 2004 winners of the prestigious Canada Research Chairs in Biological Chemistry.

One of the decisions Wilds is making these days is which co-op students he will be hiring to work in his Concordia University lab during the next semester. "Someone gave me my first break when I was a co-op student and I've always known I'd want to return the favor one day," he commented. "I know chemistry co-op students are motivated and want to work in the lab. That is the employee profile I am looking for," he added.

The students he hires will find an experienced mentor in Wilds. In the last dozen years he has completed a PhD at McGill, won FCAR and NSERC post-graduate and post-doctoral fellowships (which he attributes in part to publications that he co-authored as part of his co-op training), worked in a variety of companies and eventually settled into his specialty – researching DNA and developing tailor-made drugs that fight diseases such as cancer and AIDS.

Achievements aside, Chris Wilds still identifies strongly with the chemistry co-op students he is interviewing. "We are all motivated by doing science," he explains. The tradition continues.



**Chris Wilds**, winner of a 2004 Canada Research Chair in Biological Chemistry.



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## Director's Message Building international alliances

In North America co-operative education is at the forefront of educational innovation, and Concordia University is proud to be a leader in the field. By alternating program relevant work experience with academic study, co-op students graduate with the kind of practical experience that today's employers are seeking. Concordia was one of the first universities to establish a co-operative education curriculum and leads the way in preparing students for real-world challenges.

We are now in the process of expanding international work term opportunities. This will enable a select group of qualified and motivated students to gain valuable international work experience and help them understand the cross-cultural perspectives of business. In addition, co-operative education programs build international alliances between education, industry, and government, providing the connections that help developed and developing nations achieve business success in a global economy.

In order to facilitate international initiatives the Institute for Co-operative Education recently signed an agreement with AIESEC - a student run organization operating world wide. This partnership will provide essential support to students working internationally by helping them with accommodations, travel to and from work and adapting to life and work in a different cultural environment.

To find out more about how to benefit from this new partnership please contact me.

— Christine M. Webb

## For value-added employees look here

Fewer than 20% of co-op work terms take place outside of Montreal and Quebec, but it is these very experiences that offer personal and professional advantages to all concerned.

Biochemistry professor Christine Dewolf thinks a work term abroad is a plus in the job market. "Students are more well-rounded and have a broader background and view of their field, which is important as most industries involve international companies or collaborations."

Chemistry academic advisor Dr. Sébastien Robidoux agrees. "It shows an employee has a desire for change. Development in science is based on new ideas and innovation."

Jonathan Provost and Jacinthe Gagnon are two of the Biochemistry co-op students in the laboratories of Furtwangen University in Germany who are helping the food, cosmetics and pharmaceutical sectors

create more environmentally-friendly and better priced products by examining the degradation of starch or glycolipids from fungus. Their learnings, however, go beyond the "bench". "Performing this research in coalition with scientists in Sweden has forced me to become much more organized," says Provost.

Gagnon agrees. "I am learning new laboratory methods on membrane fragments that I can use for future studies or work, however, the work term is character building, too," she adds. "I am a very shy person, but I now approach people more easily."

Contributor: Ali-Neomie Saba



Janice Lawandi (left) and Daniela Mercadante (right) pose near the autoclave in the laboratory of the university in Germany where they completed their chemistry co-op work terms and learnt how to work under sterile conditions. "Any situation, good or bad, can turn into a learning experience," Mercadante states. "But a person has to be willing to take the opportunity when it comes around."

### In their own words...

### Getting mileage from an out of town work term...



**Erika Neszeckso**, third year Finance student (Bank of New York Clearing Services)  
Tasks: Learned broker-dealer trading procedures for more than 60 countries as well as US trading procedures.

"This co-op work term showed me that I am more independent than I thought, that I adapt easily to my surroundings and I appreciate different backgrounds."



**Nick Mouracade**, third year Computer Science student (Air Canada, Vancouver)

Tasks: Worked as a software developer with Air Canada's eBusiness stakeholders to strengthen web sites and identify and monitor relevant technology trends and business opportunities.

"I've learned to expect the unexpected and how to deal with it with patience and open-mindedness which will help me grow as a person."



**Vienna Blum**, third year HR Management student, (CERAM Sophia Antipolis University and le Cirque du Soleil, France)

Tasks: Contributed to employee orientation, training policies & procedures and performance assessment projects.

"Working in another language and culture, it's easy to spend a lot of time frustrated and confused. But the point is not to change my environment, rather to change me."

## How Co-op prepares its grads for work

Lesley McCubbin graduated from co-op (BA, Specialization in Translation) in 2003

### Why was it important to alternate work and study terms?

With translation, one of the main differences between classroom learning and learning on the job is in the volume of work. You learn how to be a translator by translating, and the amount of work you get in class simply doesn't com-

pare to what you are expected to do on a work term. Also, in the "real" world you are faced with "real" problems; you have to deal with unclear or badly written source texts, unreasonable clients and impossible deadlines.

### Did co-op change your view of your career?

Each work term gave me a greater understanding of who I was in a particular work context; what my technical capabilities are and where my strengths and weaknesses lie.

### What are some things you found out about the field of translation?

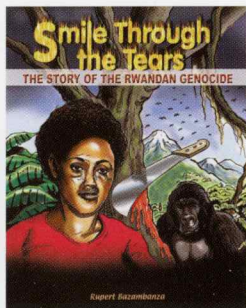
Translators don't just do fun things like plays and novels; they are also needed for things like manuals, catalogues, and the microwave cooking instructions on packets of tofu hot-dogs. As well, the work requires immense attention to detail.

### How did co-op contribute to your development?

Each work term enhanced my academic performance significantly; I became a faster, more decisive translator when it came to classroom assignments. And now, having graduated, I feel confident and ready to enter the workplace permanently.



Lesley McCubbin has just completed translation of a book on Rwandan genocide entitled: *Sourire malgré tout* (Smile Through the Tears). The author is Rupert Bazambanza, a Rwandan refugee (and survivor of the genocide) now living in Montreal. The English version is being released in bookstores this month. The story of the 1994 Tutsi genocide in Rwanda is told through the eyes of the Rwanda family, to whom the author was very close and whose near annihilation he witnessed.



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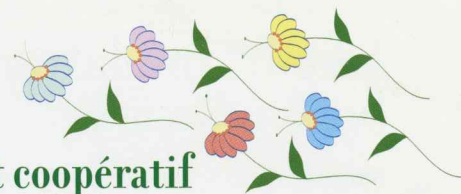
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Please send comments about the *Hire Education* newsletter to the editor at: sharon.bishin@concordia.ca



# Invitation to Participate in our Co-op Education Programs

## Invitation d'adhésion dans notre programme d'enseignement coopératif



Employer / Nom de l'employeur : \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person & title / Personne ressource & fonction : \_\_\_\_\_

Address / Adresse : \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail / Courriel : \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone / Téléphone : \_\_\_\_\_ Fax / Télécopieur : \_\_\_\_\_

### Session in which you wish to participate / Sessions auxquelles vous désirez participer

☐ Fall / Automne ☐ Winter / Hiver ☐ Summer / Été

We wish to rehire / Nous voulons réembaucher ☐

### Program(s) and number of positions required / Programmes et nombre de postes requis

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accountancy / Comptabilité                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science / Informatique                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance / Finance   | <input type="checkbox"/> Management Information Systems / Gestion de l'information |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Economics / Économie  | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Engineering / Génie du bâtiment                  |
| (Undergraduate and Graduate / Premier et deuxième cycles)                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Civil Engineering / Génie civil                           |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Translation / Traduction  | <input type="checkbox"/> Software Engineering / Génie logiciel                     |
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Please attach a job description for each position / Veuillez joindre une description de tâches pour chacun des postes

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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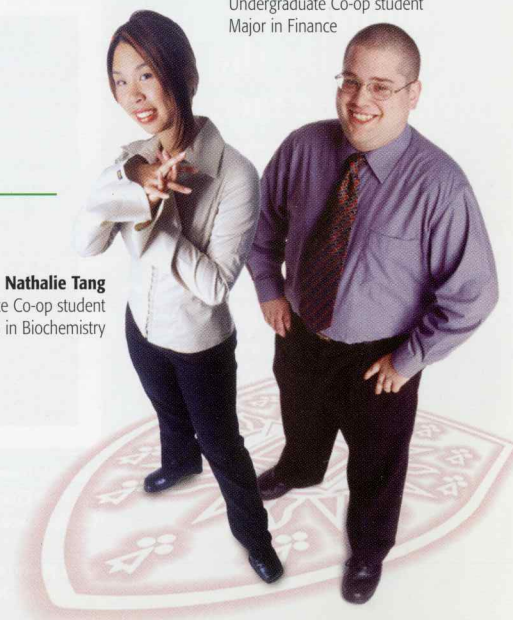
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You can also reach us by phone / Vous pouvez également nous contacter par téléphone :

(514) 848-2424 ext. 3950

**Brennan Richer**  
Undergraduate Co-op student  
Major in Finance

**Nathalie Tang**  
Undergraduate Co-op student  
Specialization in Biochemistry





# Important dates

## FALL 2004 WORK TERM

<b>May 14</b>	Last day for employers and students to confirm rehires
<b>May 17 – June 11</b>	Fall Work Term positions advertised to students
<b>May 25 – June 18</b>	Interviews on campus
<b>June 21</b>	Job Match - offers made to students on behalf of employers
<b>June 28</b>	Placement continues - new jobs posted daily
<b>Sept. 7 – Dec. 24</b>	Fall Work Term

## Your Success is our Success

On Thursday, June 3rd, Concordia University's Institute for Co-operative Education will be hosting its first Employer Recognition Awards reception. For more information call 848-2424 local 3950.

## Votre réussite est la nôtre

Le jeudi 3 juin, l'Institut d'enseignement coopératif de Concordia organise pour la première fois une réception de remise de prix à ses employeurs, afin de reconnaître leur soutien indéfectible à l'enseignement coopératif à l'Université. Pour plus de renseignements, appeler le 848-2424, poste 3950.

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# Dates importantes

## STAGES D'AUTOMNE 2004

<b>14 mai</b>	Dernier jour de confirmation de réengagement pour employeurs et étudiants
<b>17 mai-11 juin</b>	Postes d'automne annoncés aux étudiants
<b>25 mai-18 juin</b>	Entrevues sur le campus
<b>21 juin</b>	Job Match – offres d'emploi faites aux étudiants de la part des employeurs
<b>28 juin</b>	Le placement continue – nouveaux emplois affichés quotidiennement
<b>7 sept.-24 déc.</b>	Stage d'automne



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## Companies recognize the changing face of engineering

Companies know the value of hiring co-op. Pratt&Whitney, CAE, Pixel, Ericsson, Technion, IRSST and Optimal Robotics are just a few of the firms where these co-op students have completed work terms. Tasks have included: vibration analysis for large structures, documentation coding for pilot training manuals, technical network support for web pages, wind tunnel modeling, and designing lasers that cut metal.



**Pictured, from left to right, engineering students: Alicia Gallagher (Civil); Jacelyn Daigle (Civil); Elizabeth Chacko (Software); Juliana Jasinski (Mechanical); Nadia Parissi (Industrial); Ying Wai (Candy) Kwok (Electrical) (seated in front).**

**Sur la photo, de gauche à droite : Alicia Gallagher (civil); Elizabeth Chacko (logiciel); Juliana Jasinski (mécanique); Nadia Parissi (industriel); Ying Wai (Candy) Kwok (électrique) (assise à droite en avant).**

## Les entreprises reconnaissent la face changeante du génie

Les entreprises considèrent qu'engager des stagiaires coop est une bonne affaire. Pratt&Whitney, CAE, Pixel, Ericsson, Technion, IRSST, et Optimal Robotics : quelques firmes où ces étudiants coop ont effectué un stage. Parmi leurs tâches : étude des vibrations dans les grandes structures, codage de la documentation dans les manuels d'instruction pour pilotes, support technique pour pages Web, élaboration de maquettes de souffleries, et création de lasers capables de découper le métal.